

opinion as to its discreteness, but Mrs. B. P. Hall, *in litt.*, kindly informs me that she does not believe that it is valid, a view which is apparently shared by Dr. Austin L. Rand in his treatment of this species in his revision of the shrikes for the continuation of Peters *Check-List*. In the event of these views being followed, *U. m. angolensis* will require to be treated as a synonym of the nominate race. However, Meise, in his original description of *U. m. angolensis*, shows that the name was given to a population of large-sized birds, similar in wing-length to those of South-West Africa, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and contiguous areas to the east and north-east, though shorter-tailed [247–280 (Meise, *loc. cit.*) as against 298–351 mm. (Clancey)] and with the plumage colouration much as in *L. m. aequatorialis*. It seems to me that the status of *U. m. angolensis* is still unresolved and warrants further study.

(b) *Lanius melanoleucus expressus*, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂, adult. Game Farm “Malamala”, near Newington, eastern Transvaal lowveld, South Africa. 20th July, 1952. Collected by P. A. Clancey. In the collection of the Durban Museum.

Diagnosis: Similar to the nominate race as defined above, but of markedly smaller size, most noticeable in the shorter, rounder wing (♂♂ 127–137.5, ♀♀ 125–137, as against 137–145 and 137–145 mm.). Also with a pronounced tendency to have the white apical spots to the primaries and secondaries (including the tertials) smaller, and with the white of the rump more sullied with grey. Rectrices tending to be narrower.

Wings of 20 ♂♂ 127–137.5 (133.1), 15 ♀♀ 125–137 (132.2), tails of 10 ♂♂ 273–353 (305.2) mm.

Material examined: 58.

Measurements of the Type: Wing 132, culmen from base 25.5, tarsus 38, tail 328 mm.

Range: Natal and Zululand from about the basin of the Tugela River, northwards in the eastern lowlands through Swaziland, Sul do Save, southern Portuguese East Africa, and the eastern and north-eastern Transvaal to south-eastern and eastern Southern Rhodesia, the lower Zambesi River valley, and southern Nyasaland.

Remarks: The name of the new race is from the Latin *expressus*, clear, evident, prominent, etc.

Literature cited:—

Meise, W. *Abhandlungen und Verhandlungen des Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins in Hamburg*, N.F. Bd. II, 1957 (1958), pp. 77–79.

Neumann, O. *Journ. f. Ornith.*, 1900, 3, p. 262.

Reichenow, A. *Die Vögel Afrikas*, vol. ii, 1902–1903, pp. 627–628.

On the question of the occurrence of Peters' Twinspot *Hypargos niveoguttatus* (Peters) in Sul do Save, Southern Mozambique

by W. J. LAWSON

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Pinto & Lamm (Ostrich 30, (2), 91, 1959.) in fixing the type-locality of *H. niveoguttatus* at Tete, Mozambique, state, “We are satisfied that in

Mozambique *niveoguttatus* does not occur south of the Save River." During a recent expedition into southern Mozambique, organised by the Durban Museum, it was learnt from Mr. C. H. "Jack" Scheepers, of Bela Vista, of the occurrence of *H. niveoguttatus* in the Sul do Save at Chimonzo, in the Macia district, about 100 miles north of Lourenco Marques. This area was well worked by the Durban Museum party, and a number of specimens of *H. niveoguttatus* were collected. This species was found to be abundant in the evergreen forest at Chimonzo and especially in scrub tangles around native cultivations. On examination of the specimens of *H. niveoguttatus* in the Museu Dr. Alvaro de Castro, Lourenco Marques, a single male specimen (No. 5873) from Macia was found. It had been collected by Dr. A. A. da Rosa Pinto on 22nd August, 1956, in an area obviously close to that in which we operated.

In making the above quoted statement, Pinto appears to have overlooked the fact that he had collected *H. niveoguttatus* south of the Save River, in an area in which we found the bird abundant. Mr. C. H. Scheepers, who knows the area well, informs me that the Chimonzo and Macia population is an isolated pocket of the species, restricted to the Macia district, and that to the best of his knowledge does not occur elsewhere in this region. *Hypargos margaritatus* (Strickland) is not known from the area in which *H. niveoguttatus* occurs.

It is of interest to note that many years ago H. F. Francis collected a specimen of Peters' Twinspot at the type-locality. Through the courtesy of Dr. J. M. Winterbottom, Honorary Ornithologist of the South African Museum, Cape Town, I have been privileged to examine this specimen. It is an adult male collected on the 1st October 1899 at an unspecified locality "North of Port of Inhambane", at which locality Francis stated that it was "Not uncommon". (see also *Ibis* 1899, p. 285). In addition to this D. T. Cole (*Ostrich* 28, p. 192) records observing a single male specimen in dense bush at Chicumbane, a locality approximately 125 miles north of Lourenco Marques, slightly further north than Chimonzo, where I found the species to be common in 1960, indicating that the populations of Peters' Twinspot in the littoral of Sul do Save to the north of Delagoa Bay is reasonably extensive.

The occurrence of this isolated population of *H. niveoguttatus* within the established range of *H. margaritatus* makes it doubtful if these two species can be correctly regarded as conspecific, as has been suggested. All specimens of *H. niveoguttatus* from Chimonzo and Macia are typical of the species.

The finding of Peters' Twinspot far south of the Limpopo River is a noteworthy extension of range, and raises the question of the wisdom of adjusting the original type-locality as given by Peters (J.f.O., 1868: 133) from Inhambane to Tete as given by Pinto & Lamm, *loc. cit.* Indeed, there is now every reason to believe that Peters did obtain the original specimens where he stated (Inhambane) and that no error occurred. Very large numbers of *H. niveoguttatus* have been captured at Chimonzo for avicultural purposes, so the population in this area is large and no doubt of considerable antiquity. Peters may have travelled south of Inhambane to collect his birds, or he may have purchased them from natives peddling

them from the south. This may explain the absence of notes on this bird in his field diary. On the other hand the forest, now found at Chimonzo, may once have been far more extensive prior to its being cut out by natives for agricultural purposes, and may have once extended further north, to Inhambane.

On the South African subspecies of the Variegated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* Lesson

by P. A. CLANCEY

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In the topotypical populations of *Indicator variegatus variegatus* Lesson, 1830: Knysna, southern Cape Province, South Africa (*vide* Vincent, *Check List of the Birds of South Africa*, 1952, p. 50), the wings of ♂♂ measure 108–114, ♀♀ 104–109 mm. Study of a limited amount of material of this rather elusive species kindly placed at my disposal by the Directors of the following museums: South African Museum, Cape Town (through Dr. J. M. Winterbottom), East London Museum, Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (through Mr. O. P. M. Prozesky), and the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo (through Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin), shows that birds agreeing with the topotypical populations occur north in the eastern tropical littoral of south-eastern Africa to about Inhambane, Sul do Save, southern Portuguese East Africa, and as far north as the south-eastern Sudan and south-central Abyssinia in the interior of the African continent. In Portuguese East Africa to the north of the established range of *I. v. variegatus* occur populations of rather smaller-sized birds which appear referable to the subspecies *I. v. virescens* Reichenow, 1889: Lewa, Usambara Mountains, eastern Tanganyika Territory (see Reichenow, *Journ. f. Ornith.*, vol. xvii, 1889, p. 247), as recognised by Friedmann, *Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, No. 208, 1955, pp. 89–115. A male from Mt. Gorongoza and another from Macequece, in the Vumba Highlands, have wings 104.5, 105, an unsexed adult from Coguno has a wing of 101, while an adult female from Beira has a wing of 103 mm. Friedmann (p. 115) gives the wing of the male of *I. v. virescens* as 100–105, and the female 98 mm. (apparently only one measured). This author also writes (p. 91), "It is possible that the birds of eastern Mozambique may yet prove to belong to this race (*I. v. virescens*) rather than the nominate one," and this observation is here confirmed by the finding of populations with the mensural characters of the race concerned as far south as northern Sul do Save in the eastern lowlands of south-eastern Africa. *I. v. variegatus* and *I. v. virescens* should both be admitted to the South African list on the basis of the above findings.

In a series of 2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ from Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland occur some extremely greyish backed examples, completely devoid of the olive lake colour to the fringes of the feathers of the mantle, rump and wings, so typical of the majority of *I. v. variegatus*. The specimens concerned are not worn, so that the significance of this development is at present obscure, but it is interesting to note that Zedlitz (*vide Journ. f. Ornith.*, vol. lxi.ii, 1915, p. 8) has already recorded such variants from elsewhere in Africa.